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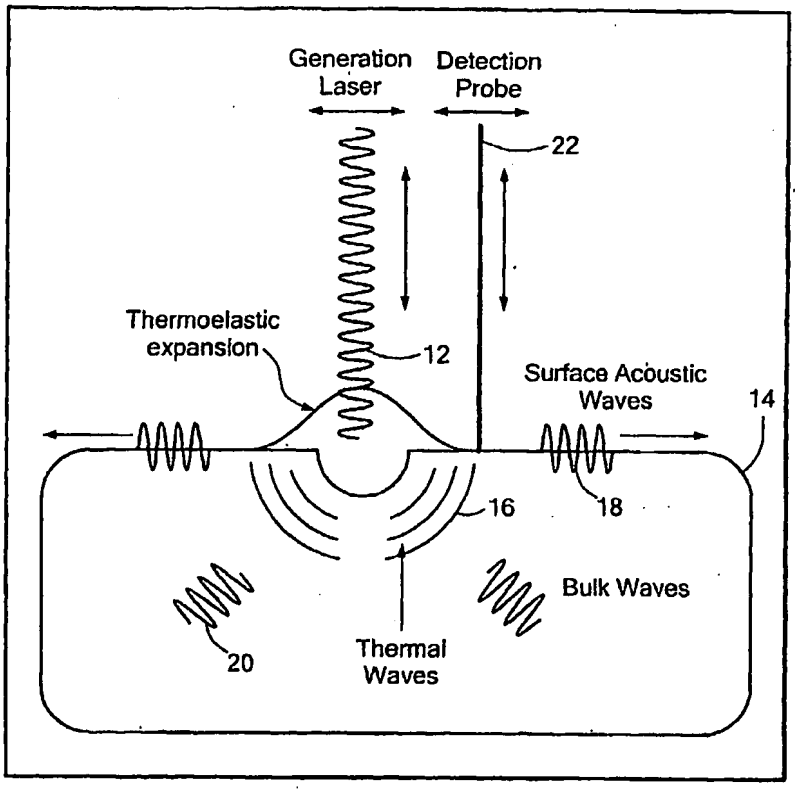
(54) Title: CHARACTERIZATION OF MICRO- AND NANO SCALE MATERIALS BY ACOUSTIC WAVE GENERATION WITH A CW MODULATED LASER



(57) Abstract: An acoustic wave generating laser beam (12) is amplitude modulated with continuous wave modulation of a frequency in the megahertz to gigahertz range and an optical system directs the modulated radiation to a surface of a thin surface layer (14). This in turn causes an acoustic wave (16, 18, 20) that is sensed and analyzed to provide an indication of properties of the thin surface layer

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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